

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01

AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 SCCT-02 CU-04 SY-04 A-01 OPR-02

IO-14 AGR-20 SCS-03 SCA-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /220 W
----- 114013

R 301506Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8729

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR

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E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PINS PINT ET ELAB

SUBJ: PARTIAL STRIKES IN FACE OF STRONG IEG WARNING

REFS: (A) USINFO 29/1515ZAPR74; (B) ADDIS 4567 & 4560;
(C) ASMARA 300

1. THREATENED BY POSSIBILITY OF WALKOUTS BY EMPLOYEES OF KEY SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES (REF A), GOVERNMENT EVENING APRIL 29 ISSUED STERN WARNING AGAINST ANY SUCH WORK STOPPAGE BY IEG EMPLOYEES. STATEMENT, WHICH FOLLOWED EARLIER RADIO APPEAR BY ENDALKACHEW, REFERRED TO APRIL 23 STATEMENT (REF B) AND ADDED FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) IT ILLEGAL FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO STOP WORK OR INDULGE IN UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES. ANY FOUND DOING SO WILL BE CONSIDERED AS HAVEING LEFT JOB AND WILL BE REPLACED.

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(B) GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TAKE STRICT

MEASURES AGAINST ANY EMPLOYEES ATTEMPTING FLOUT LAW FORBIDDING WORK STOPPAGE.

(C) NECESSARY LEGAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST ANYONE OR ANY ORGANIZATION ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING WORK STOPPAGES BY IEG EMPLOYEES.

(D) EMPLOYEES OF VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES, E.G. TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ELECTRIC AND WATER, ARE WARNED TO BE ON THEIR JOBS.

(E) SECURITY FORCES WILL BE ASSIGNED TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PRIVATE CONCERNS SEEKING PROTECTION.

(F) COMMITTEE UNDER MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SET UP TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF ABOVE DIRECTIVES.

2. SOME SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENCY EMPLOYEES CARRIED OUT THEIR STRIKE TODAY, DESPITE ABOVE WARNINGS AND PRESENCE POLICE AND MILITARY OUTSIDE AND IN OFFICES OF KEY AGENCIES AFFECTED. TYPICALLY, EXTENT OF WORK STOPPAGE DIFFICULT ASCERTAIN. WE UNDERSTAND IBTE, ELECTRIC POWER, WATER, NATIONAL BANK AND RADIO ETHIOPIA EMPLOYEES DID NOT REPORT FOR WORK THIS MORNING. MANAGEMENT REPORTEDLY LOCKED OUT AT AWASH VALLEY AUTHORITY, IHA AND ETO. HOWEVER, AT LEAST IN CASE OF IBTE, MILITARY PREVENTED NIGHT SHIFT FROM DEPARTING FOR SEVERAL HOURS AND ARE NOW SAID BE ARRESTING STRIKE LEADERS. AS FAR WE CAN DETERMINE, IBTE EMPLOYEES WHO WERE FORCED REMAIN IN BUILDING WERE NOT WORKING. RADIO ETHIOPIA DID BROADCAST AT NOON TODAY; AND ELECTRICITY IS OPERATING, POSSIBLY WITH MANAGEMENT STAFF ONLY. WATERWORKERS SEEM INCLINED STAY ON JOB AS LONG AS POWER AVAILABLE TO PUMP WATER. CAA WORKERS DID NOT STRIKE. MILITARY EVERYWHERE URGING RETURN TO WORK AND DEMANDING CELU USE ITS INFLUENCE TO END WILDCAT STRIKES.

3. ADDIS ABABA NEVERTHELESS RELATIVELY CALM, DESPITE CONTINUED BUS STRIKE AND WEEKEND MILITARY ACTIONS. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, POLICE AND MILITARY UNITS ARE MUCH IN EVIDENCE, PARTICULARLY AROUND CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICES. THERE LARGE NUMBER POLICE AND EMERGENCY STRIKE FORCE GATHERED AT CELU HEADQUARTERS TO KEEP AN EYE ON CONSULTATIONS IN COURSE THERE. THERE ONE RELIABLE REPORT OF HEAVY MILITARY MOVEMENTS ON ROAD FROM ADDIS TO DEBRE ZEIT. SOME ADDIS RESIDENTS EXPRESSING FRUSTRATION AT CONTINUED STATE UNCERTAINTY AND SPORADIC LABOR PROBLEMS. "WE WANT CHANGE, BUT NOT THIS WAY."

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4. WE HAVE SOME REPORTS OF CONTINUED UNREST IN COUNTRYSIDE. TIGRE PROVINCE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES IN NUMBER OF TOWNS. SCHOOLS THERE ARE OUT AND ONE SOURCE SAID TWO STUDENTS KILLED BY POLICE IN SHIRE DISTRICT. REPORTEDLY, TERRITORIAL ARMY DETACHMENT IN TIGRE CAPITAL DEMANDING REMOVAL THEIR COMMANDER. BESIDES TIGRE, THERE ALSO REPORTS OF TROUBLE IN GONDAR, WITH LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRING APRIL 22 AND 23, ONE ORGANIZED BY

MOSLEMS, THE OTHER BY TOWNSPEOPLE REQUESTING REMOVAL OF THE GOVERNOR AND A CHURCH LEADER. WE HAVE HEARD OF TROUBLE IN FICHE (SHOA) AND IN TICHO (ARUSSI), WHERE CITIZENS' COMMITTEES HAVE CHASED OUT LOCAL OFFICIALS AND TAKEN OVER BOTH TOWN.

5. ASMARA SITUATION BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. WYMAN

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